

NOTES*(Original in own hand)*On Aesthetic Education - Quotes from Herbert Read.Plato's Laws

Earliest Ed. must come through the Muses & Appollo

Only through the power to perceive & enjoy rhythm
& melody is the means given us to inculcate a "rightly
disciplined state of pleasures & pains " - on which in
turn depends the true apprehension of good & evil -

Plato Republic

Our young men dwelling as it were in a healthful
region , may drink in good from every quarter whence any emanation
from noble works may strike upon their eye[?] or their ear - & win
them imperceptably from their earliest childhood into resemblance
~~tone~~ & harmony with the true beauty of reason.

- 1) Communication - talk
- 2) Dramatic - Act
- 3) Artistic - draw- paint
- 4) Musical - dance - sing
- 5) Inquisitive - Way
- 6) Constructive - to make

Aesthetic Ed.

1) What is the purpose of Ed.

- Ed. is a process of growth - the purpose of Ed.
is to develop the uniqueness & the social consciousness
of the individual -

The individual will inevitably be unique. & this
uniqueness will be of value to the community.

2. - It may be a unique way of speaking or smiling -
but that contributes to life's variety - But it may be a
unique way of seeing & thinking of inventing of expressing
mind or ~~question~~ ^{??} - & in that way one man's individuality
may be of incalculable benefit to the whole of humanity

- but uniqueness has no value in isolation -
so that it is necessary to reconcile or integrate
individual uniqueness with social unity.

3

-Aesthetic Ed.

- The Ed. of those senses upon which consciousness &
ultimately the intelligence & judgement of the
individual are based -

Education may be defined as the cultivation of
modes of expression - teaching children how to make -
sounds - images movements , tools & utensils -

- All faculties of thought, logic memory sensibility &
intellect are involved - in such processes - & they
involve art - Art is the good making of sounds & images.

We are concerned over the place which art should be held in Ed. -
 - Those prof. teachers here all agree I know to the essential
 need of Art in our prog. -

To show the point of view that the attitude of the artist
 to life is one which should be striven for & app. in all areas
 of learning -

The purpose of the reform of the Ed. system is not to
 produce more works of Art - but better persons & better societies-

-Once the shackles of School passivity are broken at one
 point - a kind of liberation, the awakening of a higher activity
 sets in - Above all the arousing of these powers particularly
 of thinking - all subjects taught benefit.

As H.R. says - in Ed. through Art

The purpose of Ed. is to preserve the uniqueness
 of the ind. to integrate him with Society etc. personal diff.

mental "

-Ed. discriminate bet. good & evil

- Break down & build up -

H.R. contention is that the development of the good
 positive qualities eliminates the opp. negative poor qualities.
 - We avoid hate by loving. We shall not need to reprove ^{~ (P)} - because
 we shall have made of Ed a process which prevents us in ways of
 evil - because the impulses Ed. will release - preceed & preclude
 the anti-social impulses.

It is evident that a training directed exclusively
 to logical thought produces a type incapable of imaginative
 activity & sensuous enjoyment.

In opp. to the logical tradition is that there exists a concrete visual mode of thinking - a mental process which reaches it highest efficiency in the creation of a work of art -

- No other subj. is capable of giving not only the consciousness in which image - concept - sensation - thought are correlated - but at the same time an instinctive knowledge of the laws of the universe & habit of behaviour in harmony with nature -

What is Art

Art like air & soil is everywhere about us -
it is not a product of Museums -

It is something which appeals primarily to our senses-

To begin with it is something known as form- if someone plays well or does anything well - He is in good form.
- Form a verb - Form fours - Dew drops form on a twig - Form actually means "take shape"

- Definition of Art.

The two main principles - the principle of form
& the principle of origination peculiar to the mind of man - impelling him to create -

Form is a function of perception

Origination is a function of imagination.

We must think of the unconscious mind of the spectator as a sort of carnival into which a strange figure suddenly strays - All the merry makers turn towards the newcomer & welcome him, he joins in their dance & the fun goes all the faster - Something like this happens when we experience the wonder which is the artists aim to induce.

① Work of Art .

concrete achievement of a thing in its actuality -
- you may learn all about the sun -rotation of the
earth etc. - & miss the radiance of the sunset -
- There is no substitute for the direct perception
of the concrete achievement of a thing in its actuality-

②

In the fine Arts the concept & the medium are one -
- there is no symbolic language - you cannot
conceive your work of art except in a solid
tangible material.

③

For what they seeing enjoy, that is Art. -
It is one of the qualities of enjoyment that it is
infectious - everyone . we should try to diffuse
this awareness of the habit of enjoyment which is Art.-